

10/585337

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 06 JUL 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Yoshikazu YAMAKAWA et al.
Based on : PCT/JP 2004/000214
Docket No. : (06:82)
Customer No. : 02119

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: July 3, 2006

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b),
AND EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE OF THE CITED PRIOR ART**

Sir:

The undersigned hereby requests that the prior art cited on the attached prior art statement be placed of record in the application file and be considered by the examiner.

This citation of prior art is made under 37 CFR 1.97(b), since it is being filed within three months of the filing date and before the mailing of a first Office Action.

The relevance of the prior art cited on the attached form PTO/SB/08a is as follows:

WO 96/04067

The present invention describes a device to process a fluid, the device having a membrane filter, wherein an agent able to detect or cause modification of at least one component of said fluid is localized in said device, preferably on the membrane. The device is arranged to filter the fluid by cross-flow filtration. A preferred form of membrane filter is hollow fibre membranes, especially a single hollow fibre membrane. Space between the exterior of the membrane and the inside surface of the outer casing of the device may be completely or partially filled with a solid material, which may contain the agent.

JP56147013

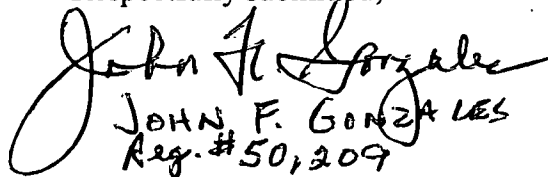
This invention shows how to detect the flow rate of liquid surely and periodically and obtain always a constant flow rate by measuring the time required for the intermittently fed bubbles to pass between two sets of photodetectors provided along the flow of liquid in a fluid flow passage having a transparent part. Photodetectors 2, 3 consisting of light emitting diodes 2a, 3a and light receivers 2b, 3b such as phototransistors are disposed by leaving fixed spacings in the transparent part of a fluid passage 1. At every prescribed time, bubbles are produced in a bubble supply pipe 6 by a bubble feeder 8, and bubbles 9 are set into the passage 1 through a check valve 7b. The time required for the bubble 9 to pass between the photodetectors 2 and 3 is detected and a liquid feed pump 4 is so controlled as to correct the rate of its fluctuations. Thereby, the constant flow rate is obtained at all times.

JP58100039U

No abstract available for this patent. It is cited to show state of the art.

Examination of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

(06:82)

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /R.R./